

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15  
MCT-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 TRSE-00 /090 W  
-----051612Z 016623 /40

P R 051345Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1671

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 160

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: GENERAL STRIKE: DAY THREE

REF: (A) BELFAST 159 (B) BELFAST 158

1. VOLUME EARLY MORNING AUTOMOBILE, BUS AND TRAIN TRAFFIC  
BELFAST TODAY INDICATED FOR SECOND SUCCESSIVE DAY MORE  
PEOPLE WERE GOING TO WORK AND REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN  
GENERAL STOPPAGE CALLED BY LOYALIST UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL.  
EARLY REPORTS INDICATE PATTERN IS GENERALLY SAME THROUGHOUT  
PROVINCE BUT THERE STILL ARE AREAS WHERE INDUSTRY AND COMMERCIAL  
ACTIVITY REMAINS AT LOW LEVEL. PORT OF LARNE REMAINS CLOSED  
BUT NEARBY POWER STATION AT BALLYLUMFORD, PROVIDING TWO-THIRDS  
OF ELECTRICITY FOR PROVINCE, IS OPERATING NORMALLY. MONSANTO  
CHEMICAL PLANT AT COLERAINE IS WORKING. NO OTHER AMERICAN  
FIRM HAS NEARED CLOSURE ALTHOUGH GALLAHER'S TOBACCO NEAR  
BALLYMENA (AMERICAN BRANDS) AND BERKSHIRE DUNDONALD PLANT  
ARE OPERATING WITH GREATLY REDUCED WORKFORCE. EMPLOYERS ARE  
PRAISING ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNIONS AND COURAGE OF WORKERS. IN  
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SOME AREAS OUTSIDE BELFAST POLICE ESCORTED WORKERS THROUGH  
PICKET LINES. THERE IS LESS PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION BELFAST  
THAN YESTERDAY BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE CAMPAIGN DEVELOPING TO  
DISRUPT TRAFFIC THROUGH BOMB-THREATS. SEVERAL MAIN ARTERIES  
INCLUDING MOTORWAY M1 TO SOUTH HAVE BEEN CLOSED BECAUSE OF  
SUSPECT DEVICES. CONCERN ABOUT GASOLINE SHORTAGE GROWS AS  
DELIVERIES GOING ONLY TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS AMBULANCES

AND FIRE STATIONS.

2. IT NOW CLEAR THAT ARMY INVOLVED IN NEWTOWNARDS ROAD ACTION YESTERDAY (REFTEL B) ONLY IN SUPPORT ROLE. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) SPECIAL PATROL GROUP ACTUALLY REMOVED BARRICADES. ARMY IN BACK-UP ROLE IN CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH BUT DID NOT RPT NOT GET INVOLVED. ONE FILLING STATION IN PARNE AND BELFAST POLICE STATION WERE BOMBED, UNDOUBTEDLY BY PROTESTANT PARAMILITARIES. ELEVEN MEN WERE ARREST ON CHARGES RELATING TO ILLEGAL PICKETING AND THERE ABOUT 250 COMPLAINTS OF INTIMIDATION.

3. DISSOLVING OF THREE-YEAR OLD UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) PARLIAMENTARY PARTY BY JAMES MOLYNEAUX MAY 4 (REFTEL A) HAS HAD LOCAL REPERCUSSIONS. IAN PAISLEY LABELED ACTION BY OFFICIAL UNIONIST MP'S AS "GUTLESS." HE ALSO INFERRED THAT MR. MOLYNEAUX "AND HIS ENGLISH FRIEND" (POWELL) WERE OUT OF TOUCH WITH SENTIMENT IN ULSTER AND THAT MOLYNEAUX'S CONSTITUENCY OFFICERS WERE SUPPORTING UAC. HARRY WEST, LEADER OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY HAS NOT RPT NOT REACTED DIRECTLY TO MOLYNEAUX ACTION BUT HAS MADE NEW CALL FOR STRIKE TO BE ENDED AND FOR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS TO SEEK NEW SECURITY POLICY. WEST SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CERTAIN "ASSURANCES" ABOUT SECURITY AND DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT FROM NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON LAST WEEK. CONGEN SUSPECTS FROM CONTEXT THAT MR. WEST WAS SOMEWHAT RATTLED AND WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT MR. MASON HAD AGREED TO FURTHER TALKS ON SECURITY AND DEVOLUTION.

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4. PROVISIONAL IRA REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET ALTHOUGH THEY BOMBED ONE BAR IN NEWRY. MAN MURDERED IN CATHOLIC WEST BELFAST AND BODY FOUND MAY 4 BUT KILLERS AND MOTIVE UNKNOWN. SPICER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, GENERAL STRIKES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Message ID:** 0e368c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, UK, EI  
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**Type:** TE  
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